

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04532 021927Z

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5079

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)

SUBJECT: PERU: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

1. GOP CHIEF OF PROTOCOL LATE MORNING JUNE 2 INFORMED ME THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ, IN CONSULTATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD DECIDED TO KEEP HIS MEETING WITH MRS. CARTER DOWN TO A BARE MINIMUM OF PARTICIPANTS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT SECRET, HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL DISCUSSION. THUS ON PERUVIAN SIDE ONLY PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD ATTEND. ONLY U.S. PARTICIPANTS EXPECTED ARE MRS. CARTER, AMBASSADOR TODMAN, AND BOB PASTOR. THIS INTIMATE STRUCTURE EXCLUDES MRS. HOYT, AND MYSELF, AND PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. CARLOS GARCIA BEDOYA.

2. IN VIEW STATE 124590 WHICH INSTRUCTED US THAT MRS. HOYT'S PRESENCE AT MEETING IS A MUST, I AM MAKING EVERY EFFORT THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE EGO AGUIRRE TO PRESS FOR INCLUSION OF MRS. HOYT. IN ANY CASE, AND IF U.S. PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE LIMITED TO THREE PERSONS, IT SEEMS REASONABLE THAT MRS. CARTER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DECIDE FOR HERSELF WHICH TWO AMERICANS WILL ACCOMPANY HER. WILL REPORT RESULTS THESE CONVERSATIONS IMMEDIATELY.

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3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT CHANGE OF APPROACH TO TIGHTEN UP ATTENDANCE AT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MAY WELL BE RELATED TO POTENTIAL CABINET CRISIS WHICH MAY BE DEVELOPING IN PERU OVER GOP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FORTHCOMING IMF STAND-BY NEGOTIATIONS. WE HEAR THAT NEWLY-NAMED MINISTER OF FINANCE WALTER PIAZZA HAS BEEN HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN SELLING A REASONABLE PROGRAM BASED ON NEW AUSTERITY MEASURES TO CABINET,

AND ESPECIALLY TO MILITARY JUNTA (PROGRAM INTER ALIA WOULD CURTAIL FOREIGN ARMS PURCHASES). IF PIAZZA FAILS AND THEN RESIGNS AFTER ONLY A FEW WEEKS IN OFFICE, FINANCIAL CRISIS AND WITH IT PERU'S CREDITWORTHINESS WOULD WORSEN, ESPECIALLY IF MODERATE CENTRAL BANK ECONOMIC TEAM FOLLOWED PIAZZA'S LEAD. WITH THIS IN MIND, IT WOULD SEEM LIKELY THAT PRESENT ECONOMIC TROUBLES ARE IN FOREFRONT OF PRESIDENT'S CONCERNS, AND THAT MRS. CARTER CAN EXPECT TO HEAR A PLEA FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR PERU AS IT SEEKS VITALLY-NEEDED LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL LENDERS, INCLUDING THE IMF AND U.S. COMMERCIAL BANKS. DEAN

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